UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1993/88
15 June 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Substantive session of 1993
Geneva, 28 June-30 July 1993
Item 13 of the provisional agenda*

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Note verbale dated 3 June 1993 from the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to request the Economic and Social Council to consider, under the provisional agenda item for the Council's substantive session of 1993 entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees", the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The growing wave of refugees and displaced persons (18 million refugees throughout the world and an equivalent number of persons displaced within their own borders) raises new challenges for the international community, particularly in Africa and Europe. In Europe, the armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia has caused suffering on a scale not seen since the Second World War, forcing the displacement of more than three million people. Spain's growing participation in the various operations and programmes of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which has a branch at Madrid, and the level of the Spanish contribution to UNHCR in recent years, makes Spain's inclusion in the Executive Committee advisable, in the view of the Spanish authorities.

The Spanish Government trusts that the Economic and Social Council will recommend the expansion of the Executive Committee in order to reflect, in particular, the importance which it attaches to the question of refugees and displaced persons in Europe and Spain's firm commitment to and participation in the search for lasting solutions to that problem.

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